

NPS/CIRPAS Activity Summary

Activity Name

AUVSI Flight Demonstration

Customer

PMA-263

Activity Description

The Navy's PEO(W) and the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) hosted an unmanned air vehicle flight demonstration in conjunction with the AUVSI 2001 Conference. CIRPAS operates and maintains the two Predators procured for TCS development and owned by PMA-263. The PMA requested CIRPAS support a TCS/Predator demonstration at the first-ever UAV Air Show at Webster Field, MD.

Payload Description

Both Predators were configured with the standard EO/IR payload.

Flight Activity Description

The UAV System arrived onsite on 25 July 2001. Both Predators were assembled for flight operations and based from the VC-6 hangar. Functional Check Flights occurred 28-29 July. The flight demonstration took place on 30 July. Predator 30 was launched at approximately 9:00 a.m. Due to the low ceiling, the air vehicle loitered at 2-5kft AGL. 'Showtime' for TCS/Predator wasn't until 3:00 p.m. VC-6 launched a Pioneer UAV just after our takeoff and performed for the crowd. A succession of over a half-dozen remotely operated air vehicles were launched and recovered while Predator stood watch from above. The payload imagery from all of the UAVs was displayed on a 50-ft tall video screen for the spectators. Predator imagery could be seen either on the screen (if selected by the screen operator), in the TCS or in the CIRPAS Ground Control Station. Predator demonstrated the WESCAM payload's capabilities by imaging local targets, performed a low-altitude, high-speed fly-by and landed to end the show. The vehicle can be seen returning from the day's mission in the photo to the above. The system was disassembled and shipped to the next deployment site on 2 August.

